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THE CIA - PART I

The operational arm of the Central Intelligence Agency was established by the Congress of the United States to do in the enemies of this country by any means, fair or foul. That decision was made twenty years ago.

In the intervening two decades the American public has logically assumed that the operational arm of the CIA was a hard-hitting and militantly anti-Communist organization, since the only avowed enemies of this country are the Communists.

This has proved to be a tragic misconception.

The simple truth is that the operational arm of the CIA has been the haven for more left-of-center dreamers, social climbers, draft-dodgers, do-gooders, one-worlders and anti-anti-Communists than any other single department or agency in Washington. The reasons are very simple: first, the names and histories of CIA employees are secret; a man or woman can work in total anonymity and secrecy at the CIA, whereas that same man or woman would be identified, watched and exposed in the press for similar views or decisions in any other government agency. Second: the man who headed the operational arm of the CIA for the first ten years of its existence, the late Frank Wisner, was a vigorous ultra-liberal, hand-picked by Gen. George C. Marshall. Wisner's most intimate friendship was with Philip Graham, publisher of the Washington Post.

Frank Wisner survived four changes of Director of the CIA—Admiral Souers, Admiral Hillenkoetter, General Smith and Allen Dulles. He surrounded himself with men who were his men, who thought as he did, and who were his willing tools. Those who did not share his ultra-liberal views simply did not rise to the policy or decision-making level and, as you'd expect, competent types and dissenters quickly resigned from the CIA.

Lest there be those who think this an exaggeration, here is what Thomas W. Braden, assistant to Allen W. Dulles, wrote in the May 20, 1967 issue of the Saturday Evening Post: "He had one of those purposely obscure CIA titles: Director of Policy Coordination. But everyone knew that he had run CIA since the death of the wartime OSS, run it through a succession of rabbit warrens hidden in the bureaucracy of the State Department, run it when nobody but Frank Wisner cared whether the country had an intelligence service . . ."

It must be understood that there are really two CIA's. One is essentially a big "news service," which collects, assesses, digests and reports

intelligence to the executive branch. That function is the responsibility of the Director, presently Richard Helms. The other CIA is the operational arm. In practice, it developed as an essentially independent agency, its personnel selected and its secret policies guided and implemented by Frank Wisner.

The guidelines for CIA operations survived Wisner because the men he selected, trained and promoted, survived him. And that is why the CIA scandals are in the headlines today.

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